

Hello, my name is Brian Capshaw and I live at Aurora Senior Living of East Hartford. I'm testifying on behalf of the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils representing all 27,000 Connecticut nursing home residents, of which approximately 16,000 receive a personal needs allowance under Medicaid.

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the appropriations committee. As a nursing home resident I'm pleased to be here today to discuss Governor Malloy's mid-term proposed budget adjustments under House Bill 5014 and now HB 5138. In particular the exclusion of the restoration of our personal needs allowance. In the 2011 budget the cut was listed as temporary.

Imagine your income is cut 13%, what would you do? How would you make ends meet? Or what if everyone in the office received a 3.6% raise and you did not. How would you feel?

That's exactly what happened to the 16,000 Connecticut nursing home residents who receive a personal needs allowance under Medicaid.

In the 2011 budget the 16,000 nursing residents on Medicaid took a 13% or \$9 reduction in their personal needs allowance to save the state 1.7 million dollars, this reduction was listed as temporary in the budget.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 all social security recipients received a 3.6% increase in their monthly benefit. As nursing home residents we will turn this increase over to the nursing home as cost of care. This results in the state contributing less Medicaid dollars to nursing homes, saving the state \$4 million. The personal needs allowance should be reinstated and a cost of living adjustment given at a cost of \$2 million.

We took the time to do a petition in which we gathered over 700 signatures from nursing home residents of more than 40 nursing homes supporting our efforts. We also mailed 22 members of the committee with all the details on the savings to the state.

We understand there may be a slight budget surplus or deficit this fiscal year, but we ask that you consider the fact that our personal needs allowance has not been increased since 2008 and the few products and services we buy has increased over the last 3 years. The \$60 we currently receive does not have the ability to meet our needs. By restoring the personal needs allowance to nursing home residents and including a cost of living adjustment, it would greatly impact the quality of life for nursing home residents.

In conclusion, I urge the Senate and the House and both parties to find common ground and restore the reduction we took last year and reinstate the cost of living adjustment.

I'd like to thank the Appropriations Committee for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support Connecticut's nursing home residents who are dependent on Medicaid for their daily care and their personal needs allowance to provide for the simple extras that help maintain our quality of lives, such as clothing, cable TV, and hair cuts.

Thank you

Brian Capshaw

Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Council